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THE ADDRESS OF MAJOR THOS. L. BROUN, AT THE MEMORIAL EXERCISES OF CAMP PATTON.

[From the *Charleston (W. Va.) Star*, June 14, 1888.]

Below we give the substance of the opening address made in this city, on Saturday last, by Major Thomas L. Broun, at the memorial day exercises under the auspices of Camp Patton No. 1, Confederate Veterans. The speakers occupied a stand erected in the Court House yard, and a large audience in attendance occupied the yard and the adjacent streets.

Fellow-Comrades and Citizens:

This is the first celebration by Camp Patton of Memorial Day. It is the first time in the Kanawha Valley that Confederate soldiers have met together to celebrate Memorial Day and to decorate the graves of their fellow-comrades. And it is gratifying to see so large an audience collected together to participate in this proceeding.

Camp Patton, fellow-citizens, was named in honor of a gallant Confederate Colonel, George S. Patton, who lost his life in the Confederate service, and who was a true, brave and heroic man.

This Camp is like similar organizations formed in Virginia and elsewhere in the South.

Its objects are to perpetuate the memory of Confederate soldiers who gave up their lives during the civil war in defense of their principles, and to minister to the wants of brother Confederates who were wounded or disabled, and whose necessities may now need our charities.

Camp Patton is in no sense a political organization; on the contrary, it will promote harmony and fraternal feeling with those who, in years gone by, were our adversaries and opponents in battle.

Having, fellow-citizens, briefly stated the object of the formation of Camp Patton, and the purposes of the organization, let us now look at some of the chief epochs in the history of our country, prior to the outbreak of war in 1861, to ascertain what were the causes that led to the war. But before doing so, let me remind you that Greece had its civil wars, Great Britain has had its civil wars, and the United States has had its civil war. History but repeats itself. Civil war seems to be an out-growth of liberty-loving people. It is a direful calamity to any people whilst the war is going on; but, when peace is restored, the activities and energies of the people appear to have become greatly increased thereby, and are more ready than ever to grapple with the stern realities of life, and to advance the material prosperity of the country and the general welfare of the people. So may the effects of our civil war prove to our now united country.

The first grand epoch in our country's history was the act of the thirteen colonies declaring themselves free and independent of the mother country—Great Britain. This was on the Fourth of July, 1776. This act led to a long and bloody war, whereby the thirteen colonies achieved their independence and declared themselves to be thirteen sovereign States, free forever from British rule.

Another grand act was the formation of the Federal Union by the thirteen States, whereby the United States of America, in 1787, were created by the adoption of the Federal constitution.

As time rolled on grave questions arose as to the meaning of certain parts of the constitution. The most important question was this:—“Was the Federal Government to be the final and exclusive judge of the powers delegated to it by the States? or had each State the right to judge for itself and act for itself as to any and all questions of dispute that might arise between the Federal Government and a State government?”

Over and over again was this great question discussed by the leading men of the country, from the adoption of the Federal constitution, in 1787, down to the outbreak of the civil war in 1861. For seventy-odd years did this momentous question receive the grave attention and consideration of the ablest intellects and statesmen that the country produced. Prior to our civil war the question, on several occasions, did assume a very grave aspect, and looked as if only a civil war could settle it.

By resolutions of 1798 and 1799, passed by the Legislatures of Virginia and Kentucky, it was held that each State had the right to construe the Federal Constitution for itself in all questions in dispute between the State and the Federal governments. In 1814 Massachusetts and other New England States held a Convention at Hartford, Connecticut, and published a manifesto setting forth dangers impending to New England from the usurpations of the General Government, as alleged by this Convention. It also recommended that the Legislatures of the New England States should adopt such measures as would be necessary to protect the New England people from the operation of certain acts passed by Congress and pronounced to be unconstitutional by the Convention at Hartford. In 1832 an ordinance was passed in South Carolina declaring certain acts of Congress passed on the tariff to be unconstitutional, and that South Carolina would secede from the Federal Union if the general government attempted to enforce such tariff laws within the State of South Carolina.

Early in 1861 South Carolina and some other Southern States seceded from the Federal Union, alleging as a reason therefor that dissatisfaction with Federal affairs, and disputes between the Federal government and the State governments, as to their respective rights under the Federal constitution, necessitated their withdrawal from the Federal compact.

President Buchanan and other leading statesmen of the North held, in 1860, that the general government had no authority, under the constitution, to force a State back into the Union.

The secession of South Carolina and of other States, however, caused a proclamation to be issued by President Lincoln, calling on the States remaining in the Union for troops to force the seceded States back into the Union, when this proclamation was issued, Virginia and other States refused to furnish troops for such purpose and at once seceded also from the Union. War then followed. A war which lasted some four years, and proved to be the most gigantic civil war known in the history of the world.

It terminated in April, 1865, at Appomattox, in Virginia. Grant in command of the Federal army—Lee in command of the Confederate army.

Thus war ended forever the great constitutional question, whether a State had the right to secede from the Federal Union—a question to settle which it had required hundreds of thousands of lives to be lost and millions of dollars in property to be destroyed.

The slavery question was not the cause of the war, but it was the love of State government that existed among the people of each State, and the claim of certain States to make the State the final arbiter in questions of dispute between the State government and the Federal government.

So far as the right of secession is concerned, it has been finally and forever settled by the result of our civil war, and this the Confederate army acknowledged in their surrender to the Federal army at Appomattox, in 1865—nearly a quarter of a century ago—and we now claim the Union to be indissoluble, and the States to be indestructible under the Federal constitution; so that our Federal government is composed of indestructible States, together forming an indissoluble Union.

At a banquet given in London, directly after the war, to Commodore Maury by his English admirers, Sir John Pakington stated that the fighting qualities of both armies in our civil war had elicited the admiration of the civ-

ilized world, and that the English people were especially proud of the bravery and heroism shown by their descendants, their own Anglo-Saxon stock in the American civil war. Between the soldiers engaged in the war, especially between the real fighting material of the opposing armies, there have been ever since the war, good-will and kind feeling existing, for true bravery and consistency are always admired on whatever side of the war they appeared. But it has been the non-combatant element in every community that has been so ready to fight, after peace was declared, which has delayed and retarded to some extent the progress and development of our common country.

We have, however, at last reached an era in the history of our country, when the asperities, engendered by the war, have nearly all passed away. When the great body of the people North and South, East and West, are engaged in developing and utilizing the wonderful resources of our vast country, which is unsurpassed for its varied and great natural advantages.

This unity of action and harmony of purpose are essential to the well being of society in every locality in this broad land of ours, and it is and will be in the future, the province of Camp Patton, by its annual gathering on Memorial Day, and otherwise, to contribute its share to the general welfare of its members and of this community.

LEE'S BIRTHDAY

[From the *Charleston (W. Va.) Gazette*, January 24th, 1907.]

The one hundredth anniversary of Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthday was celebrated at the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in this city on January 19th, 1907, by the Stonewall Jackson Camp, the Kanawha Riflemen Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, the Charleston Chapter of the U. D. C., Sons of Veterans and others.

The church was well filled with the old Confederates and their friends, and those in sympathy with them.

Major Thomas L. Broun of this city presided at the meeting and in his opening address stated that in the summer of 1861 Gen. John B. Floyd was in command of the "Floyd Brigade," and that Gen. Henry A. Wise was in command of the "Wise Legion," together containing about 8,000 soldiers, stationed west of Lewisburg, in West Virginia.

After the battle of Carnifax Ferry on Gauley River and at the mouth of Meadow River, the Floyd and Wise commands retreated towards Lewisburg, and Rosecrans' Army, about 12,000 strong, closely pursued them for three (3) days. The Wise Legion halted on the Sewell Mountains at night and commenced erecting fortifications. The Floyd Brigade, however, marched to Meadow Bluff, some twelve miles nearer Lewisburg. Floyd and Wise did not act in concert. Floyd was Wise's senior in rank by one week only.

When the condition of the Confederate forces was made known in Richmond, Gen. Robert E. Lee was ordered to proceed at once and take command of Floyd's Brigade and Wise's Legion, and Floyd and Wise were both ordered to Richmond.

Upon the arrival of Gen. Lee at Sewell Mountain he ordered Floyd's command at Meadow Bluff to join the Wise Legion on Sewell Mountain, Gen. Lee deeming Big Sewell Mountain the better place for defensive action. And he then ordered all officers in those commands to appear before him, which was very promptly done, and Gen. Lee in person required each to state his position and rank, what command each belonged to, where stationed, etc., etc. In a few days Gen. Lee had these discordant elements, the Floyd Brigade and the Wise Legion, merged into one united army, ready and cheerfully willing to act just as he, Lee, should direct.

The army thus united, with Gen. Lee in command, stopped the advance of Rosecrans' army of 12,000 men, and thereby compelled the enemy to abandon his advance movement on to Lewisburg and Staunton, and to retreat to the Kanawha Valley and westward.

Major Broun was placed in command of the third regiment of the Wise Legion after Col. Spaulding was killed, which was early in August and before the battle of Carnifax Ferry.

Lee's prompt organization of these discordant elements (the Wise Legion and the Floyd Brigade) into one homogeneous army ready for action was spoken of by all officers and men with great admiration and satisfaction.

The chairman further stated that the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox, April 10th, 1865, was a terrible shock to the whole South, and that Confederate officers and soldiers for a while were hopelessly despondent, and totally at a loss to know what to do or where to go, many declaring they would go to Mexico, Europe, in fact anywhere to avoid living under the Federal Flag. In a week after the surrender, Lincoln was assassinated. This deplorable event threw the Northern mind into a frenzied madness towards the South and for a while it looked as if the boasted civilization of the United States had reached an end.

What did Gen. Lee do in that very critical and trying period? To many letters sent to him by Confederate officers, he in substance replied: "Go home and go to work. Stand by your old homes, your country, your state. Work to restore peace and quiet in the land of your birth."

This advice was most timely and it acted like a charm on the entire South. It was obeyed as if it were an order from the commanding General, and the soldiers of the Confederacy went right to work in the peaceful vocations of life.

An interesting event, the speaker stated, occurred in New York City respecting Memorial Exercises which Confederate officers and soldiers then in the city prepared to have upon the death of Gen. Lee in October, 1870.

It was then said that officers, soldiers and men of the Confederate Army in New York City in October, 1870, numbered at least 5,000, all of whom were actively engaged in their respective occupations as merchants, bankers, clerks, lawyers, doctors, etc.

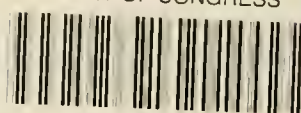
Officers and others of the Confederate Army to the number of 100 from the different Southern States who had been educated at the University of Virginia formed in 1866 an Alumni Association. The speaker was a member of this association, and stated that one-half of them had been wounded in battles, and of course were *red hot* on Southern rights.

This association took an active part to have a Lee Memorial Meeting held in New York directly after the death of General Lee in October, 1870.

This movement met with much opposition from the radical republican element in the city, and some citizens thought a riot might result if any such meeting was then held in the city. The question was much talked about. Finally a meeting of about 100 prominent citizens was held to confer with the ex-Confederates and ascertain just what was to be done at the proposed Memorial Exercises. This conference resulted in authority being given to Gen. Lee's followers and admirers that such a meeting could be held, and that the city police, backed by 200 special policemen for the occasion would see that no disturbance should be had at such meeting.

This action greatly gladdened the hearts of the Confederates in New York. The Memorial Meeting was held in Cooper's Institute and 5,000 persons were present, among them many soldiers of the South. Speeches were delivered by prominent persons from the North and the South. The whole affair proved a decided success, and thereby the great metropolis of this country united itself most closely with the Southern heart through Robert E. Lee.

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